

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(There are no amendments to the claims; however, for the convenience of the Examiner, all of the pending claims and appropriate status identifiers are presented below)

1. (Original) A gaming machine comprising:

a liquid crystal display device including a liquid crystal panel, and a light guiding plate disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal panel and formed with a light deflection pattern configured to guide light emitted from illumination means for the liquid crystal panel to the liquid crystal panel; and

a variable display device disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal display device and including a plurality of reels provided in a row each on which a plurality of symbols are arranged,

wherein a part of the light guiding plate to which each of the reels is opposed is configured as a light transmission area for transmitting light from the reel,

wherein the light guiding plate is formed with a first light deflection pattern on a periphery of the light transmission area and is formed with a second light deflection pattern in a portion more distant from the light transmission area than the first light deflection pattern, and

wherein the first light deflection pattern is formed with a pattern denser than a pattern of the second light deflection pattern.

2. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal display device comprises light diffusion means disposed between the liquid crystal panel and the light guiding plate and having a light transmission area to which each of the reels is opposed, and wherein the first deflection pattern is formed in a portion of the light guiding plate where the first deflection pattern is visually recognized through the light transmission area of the light diffusion means.

3. (Original) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the illumination means comprises a plurality of cold-cathode tubes arranged in a depth direction in a proximity of an outer end face of the light guiding plate.

4. (Previously Presented) A gaming machine comprising:

a liquid crystal display device including a liquid crystal panel, and a light guiding plate disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal panel and formed with a light deflection pattern configured to guide light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal panel; and

a variable display device disposed at a rear of the liquid crystal display device and including a plurality of reels provided in a row each on which a plurality of symbols are arranged,

wherein a part of the light guiding plate to which each of the reels is opposed is configured as a light transmission area for transmitting light from the reel,

wherein the light guiding plate is formed with a first light deflection pattern on a periphery of the light transmission area and is formed with a second light deflection pattern in a portion more distant from the light transmission area than the first light deflection pattern, and

wherein the first light deflection pattern is formed with a pattern denser than a pattern of the second light deflection pattern.

5. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal display device comprises a light diffusion plate disposed between the liquid crystal panel and the light guiding plate and having a light transmission area to which each of the reels is opposed, and wherein the first deflection pattern is formed in a portion of the light guiding plate where the first deflection pattern is visually recognized through the light transmission area of the light diffusion means.

6. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light source includes a plurality of cold-cathode tubes arranged in a depth direction in a proximity of an outer end face of the light guiding plate.